(b) if so, whether a large number of arms and ammunitions are smuggled from Pakistan in Punjab;

(c) whether Government have recently taken any steps in this regard ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is true that arms and ammunition continue to be smuggled into India.

(c) and (d) Appropriate measures to check infiltration, smuggling and bringing of arms and ammunition into India from Pakistan have been taken. The drive against active smugglers, especially those having nexus with the terrorists/extremists is also continuing.

Providing the PCOs in the Village Panchayats in Rajasthan

1590. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of village panchayats in Rajasthan which have been provided with the PCOs during the period November, 1989 to April, 1990; and

(b) what is the number of villages in Rajasthan which are having post offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) 49 village Panchayats in Rajasthan have been provided with PCOs during the period November, 1989 to April 1990.

(b) There are 8939 numbers of villages which are having post offices in Rajasthan.

Opening of new post offices in the Country

1591. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new post offices opened in the country during the period November, 1989 to April, 1990;

(b) the number of these which exist in the rural areas; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to open small P.Os. in remote areas to bring these neglected ares into the main stream ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) During the period the opening of 814 new post offices including 749 for rural areas has been sanctioned. Information as to the number of post offices actually opened in rural and other areas is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The programme of extension of postal network is implemented in each Annual Plan, the main objective of which is to provide communication facilities to remote areas by means of branch post offices in most cases and sub-post offices in some cases.

Agreement for the co-production and financing the Film "Gandhi"

1592. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the agreement for the co-production and financing the film

"Gandhi" at 10th April, 1981, 5% of net profits have to be credited to cine workers welfare fund; if so, what amount has so far been credited towards this account; and

(b) if no amount has been credited, what are the reasons therefor; and what steps are being taken to get the amount credited to the said fund ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA) : (a) The Co-production and Finance Agreement for the film "Gandhi" executed on 10th April 1981 provides for crediting of 5% of net profits from the film to the Cine Artists Welfare Fund of India. Total amount due to transfer to Cine Artists Welfare Fund is about 10 lakhs Pound Sterling (Rs. 2.91 crores). But no amount has been credited to this fund so far.

(b) Sir Richard Attenborough, one of the participants in the Agreement, has raised certain issues regarding the fund existing in India. While the title of the fund referred to in the Agreement is Cine Artists Welfare Fund of India, the title of the fund in operation in the country since November, 1984 is the Cine Workers Welfare Fund.

Starting of A.I.R. External Service in Telugu

1593. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to start External Services of All India Radio in Telugu; if so, what is the target date for the same and what are the timings; and

(b) what areas of the World are going to be covered by this Service ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA) : (a) Telugu Service has already been started by All India Radio in its external service with effect from 27th March 1990. It is of a duration of 30 minutes and is broadcast from 0415 hours to 0445 hours (IST); and

(b) The service covers east and south east Asia regions, which include Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, Kampuchia, Laos, Hong Kong and Burma.

S.T.D. facilities to Ponnuru in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh

1594. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to connect Ponnuru, Bapth, Sattenpalli in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh by S.T.D facility; and

(b) if so, what is the target date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): I (a) Yes, Sir. S.T.D. facility is already available at Ponnuru with access Code 08648.

(b) S.T.D. facility is planned for Bapatla and Sattenapalli during 1991-92 and will be provided subject to availability of equipment.